Setting up of Paper Mills in NER

*339. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up paper mills in the State of Meghalaya and other parts of the NER.

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government are exploring the possibility of establishing any paper industry in the NER ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government has no proposal to establish a paper mill in public sector in the State of Meghalaya or any other part of the North Eastern Region (NER). Paper Industry has been delicenced and Entrepreneurs are only required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the secretariat for Industrial Assistance in the Ministry. As, for setting up a paper mill, no licence is required except in terms of locational policy notified by the Government or if the proposal does not envisage manufacture of items reserved for small scale sector.

Entrepreneurs have filed four IEMs to set up paper mills in NER for manufacture of paper and paper products.

Export Promotion Park in Mangalore

*340. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought clearance for setting up an export promotion park in Mangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that land acquisition has already been taken up by the Karnataka Government; and

(c) whether Government will give clearance early ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had sought approval of the Central Government for setting up of a second Export

Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Mangalore. As per the scheme, a second EPIP in a State could be considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be operating successfully. Subject to this "in principle" approval has been given for setting up of a second park at Mangalore.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Decline in Rice Export

2444. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp fall in India's rice exports in fiscal year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to boost up the exports of rice in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of Basmati and non-basmati rice exported during the last 3 years and 1999-2000 (Apr. - Dec., 99) is as under :—

(Quantity : lakh metric tonnes)

(Value : in Rs. crores)

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-basmati rice	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1996-97	5.23	1247.64	19.89	1924.72
1997-98	5.93	1685.62	17.96	1685.38
1998-99 (Prov.)	6.01	1866.25	43.40	4334.55
Apr.-Dec., 99 (Prov.)	4.16	1255.06	9.86	1090.40
Ap.r-Dec., 98	4.25	1319.90	33.17	3334.86

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)